

Once upon a time there was an old woman. She lived with her husband, who was an old man, and a little boy. One night the old woman wanted to make a johnnycake. She poured cornmeal into a big bowl. Then she poured in oil and eggs. She poured the batter into a round pan. Then she put the pan into the hot oven. They waited for the johnnycake to cook. Then the oven door popped open. Out raced the johnnycake!

He raced on his two little legs. He ran down the street. The old woman, old man, and little boy chased after him. The johnnycake was just too fast. They gave up the chase.

The johnnycake laughed. He kept running. He ran down the street and by the river. Then he ran through the park. Soon he passed two well diggers. The two well diggers looked up from where they were working. "Where are you going, johnnycake?" said the well diggers. "I am running away," said the johnnycake. "I have outrun an old woman and an old man and even a little boy, too. I can surely outrun you!"

The two well diggers tried to chase the johnnycake. They ran and ran until they were out of breath. Soon they gave up the chase. They fell to the ground. There they lay to rest.

The johnnycake laughed and laughed. He kept running. He sang to himself, "I have outrun an old woman. I have outrun an old man. I have outrun a little boy, too. And I can outrun YOU!" As he was running and singing, the johnnycake saw a fox. He was lying under an oak tree. The fox was still. His eyes were closed. The johnnycake thought the fox was asleep. He stopped running. He

walked over to the fox. He sang his little song to the fox. The fox said, "What did you say? Come closer, I cannot hear you."

The johnnycake went closer. He sang his song to the fox. Still the fox could not hear him. He asked the johnnycake to come yet closer. The johnnycake went closer. He thought the fox was old and deaf. As soon as he got close enough, he began to sing his song again. At about that time the fox sprang up and snapped at the johnnycake with his jaws. He gobbled up the johnnycake with a twinkle in his eye!

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